(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for repair, restoration and development of these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Continuous conservation activities are undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in respect of protected monuments of national importance including those in Delhi. The protected monuments are in a good state of preservation.

(b) Conservation of monuments is a continuous process. Every year, conservation by way of structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development is taken up for selected monuments depending upon their needs and availability of resources. Conservation works are carried out in addition to routine maintenance of centrally protected monuments.

Working Group of review small/medium sectors

1124. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has set up any Working Group to review the present status of 114,000 sick units reportedly in the small/medium sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the total estimated losses incurred by these units during the last three financial years;

(c) by when the report of the Working Group is likely to be submitted to Government;

(d) whether Government has made any budgetary allocations during the current financial year for the revival/maintenance of such huge sick units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Working Group has been set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K.C. Chakrabarty, Chairman & Managing Director, Punjab National Bank with members from State Bank of India (SBI) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to suggest measures for early implementation of rehabilitation/nursing of sick small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

As per the data compiled by the RBI from the scheduled commercial banks, the number of sick micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country and amount outstanding against them as at the end of March, 2006 and March, 2007 are as under:

As at end of March	Total number of sick MSMEs (No.)	Amount outstanding against sick MSMEs (Rs. in crore)
2006	1,40,337	8,272.17
2007	1,32,081	7,471.95

Ministry of MSME has informed that the Working Group is expected to submit its report shortly.

(d) and (e) The financial assistance for the rehabilitation of sick MSMEs is provided by the Public Sector Banks/concerned financial institutions. No Budgetary allocations have been/are being made by the Government of India.

Short Selling, Lending and Borrowing of Securities

1125. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of implementation of the proposal to allow short selling, lending and borrowing of securities by 'Institutions' as has been envisaged in his Budget 2007-08.

(b) whether it is a fact that prior to implementation of the said proposal, instances of short selling, lending and borrowing of securities were detected on various occasions by regulators;

(c) if so, the nature of breach detected by regulators;

(d) the feature of deterrents imposed against unscrupulous conducts; and

(e) the details of measures now incorporated with a view to prevent misuse of the facility for manipulating the stock market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The broad frame work for Short Selling and Securities Lending and Borrowing has been laid down by SEBI *vide* its circular dated Dec. 20, 2007. The same is available on the website ***http:www.sebi.gov.in.***

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from SEBI and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The safeguards provided in the framework include: No naked short selling, No squaring off transactions intra-day by institutional investors, Disclosure by institutional investors at the time of placement of order whether the transaction is a short sale, Lending and borrowing through Clearing Corporation/Clearing House of stock exchanges, Position limits at the level of market and also clients for lending and borrowing, etc.

Loans Advanced by Nationalised Bank to Farmers

†1126. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan/advanced by various Nationalized Banks to the farmers between April and December, 2007 alongwith the rate of interest thereof;

(b) the details of the amount of loans advanced to farmers, State-wise; and

(c) whether the amount of loan has been provided to farmers by these Banks directly or whether they have to seek the help of touts for securing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The amount of loans advanced by the public sector banks (PSBs) to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.